

Letter from C. Francis Jenkins to Arthur W. McCurdy, January 12, 1898

dont want to go into any ' Scheme' THE JENKINS PHANTOSCOPE C. FRANCIS JENKINS ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEER 1325 F. St. Northwest WASHINGTON, D.C. Moving Picture Cameras Printers Developers Perforators Jan. 12, 1898. Mr. Arthur McCurdy, 1331 Connecticut Ave., Washington. My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of yesterday, with relation to the Phantoscope pictures, and replying would suggest that, as my present camera was built for outside or field work entirely and is not suited for portraiture, that we confine our first efforts to the sign language. What I would therefore suggest is that we go out to Kendall Green and ask Prof. Gallaudet to "pose" for us, say tomorrow if the day is fine. This work can be done with the present camera. For portrait work, that is lip photographs, a special camera should be constructed.

I will make this new departure of moving pictures as successful as we have anticipated, and since talking with you new and wider applications in the same line have suggested themselves. For instance, there is now on the market a little machine selling for \$5, the picture ribbons for which sell for 25 cents each. Now it would be quite possible to provide each mute pupil with one of these little machines which he would use at home as well as at school exactly as the scholar does his text book of the ordinary kind. This might be a supplemental work to the lantern, if you like, or the latter need not be used at all.

I regret that I lost the prestige of success in the first endeavor, but failures only act as incentives to sharpen my determination to succeed, and I would carry on the work, slowly or quickly as my means permitted until success crowned my efforts.

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I thank you for your kind offer to assist in bearing the incidental expenses of the first experiments, for perfecting moving picture apparatus has sadly depleted my finances, and if you can meet the actual expenses for material, etc., I will gladly furnish the apparatus, a place to do all the development, etc., and will do all the work necessary until such time as you are satisfied that we have come to the commercial development of the scheme, and that ought not be more than a week or ten days. Then I shall be glad to make you a proposition so liberal in its terms that I think you will find it entirely satisfactory.

Trusting that the above would meet with your and Mr. Bell's approval I beg to remain, Very truly yours, C. Francis Jenkins